

*Randy asked that you be sent this material*

To: Randy Kehler, National Freeze Campaign

From: Hummel Walker

Date: 10/3/83

Re: Translation of Andropov letter in a publication of the Social Democratic Party of West Germany on September 22, '83 — RK

taz Thursday 9/22/83

Berlin: On Tuesday 16 Social Democratic Parliamentarians received a response from Soviet premier A. to their disarmament appeal they had sent in March this year to the SU as well as to US Congressmen. It says in the letter of response that the SU supports the appeal to freeze all forms of nuclear weapons.

A. repeats the offer which he has publicized at regular intervals, to reduce and at the same time to liquidate the SS-20 missiles to the number of the British and French missiles. Furthermore he suggests an immediate freeze of all atomic weapons tests. As before, he establishes the willingness of the US to forego the deployment of Pershing II and Cruise missiles as a precondition.

The disarmament appeal had been signed, among others, by the SPD Bundestags-representatives Voigt, Conradi, Simonis and Duve. Chancellor Kohl is supposed to have received a letter from A. as well. Nothing is known about its content. West German and US governmental circles responded to A.'s renewed attempt in the usual fashion: nothing new, the goal continues to be the "zero-zero solution", the Russian inclusion of the French and British missiles is seen as unacceptable.

We document Andropov's letter here slightly shortened:

"The world does not need larger arsenals of lethal weapon systems. She needs their radical reduction and the freed up means to be spent on the most urgent economical and social development needs. This is the firm conviction of the SU. This is the standpoint of all the membership states of the Warsaw Pact. This is the answer to the central question in your letter. The SU does everything to stop sliding into a nuclear catastrophe. She is ready for broad cooperation with all states on this key question of mankind's future.

You are turning to us with the appeal to put an end to all nuclear armament, to freeze all (Potentials?) of nuclear weapons, and to reduce the number of SS-20 missiles in the case that the US will give up the deployment of the Cruise and Pershing missiles. We support these demands totally. We are even willing to go significantly further. We suggest

--to freeze all nuclear weapon systems (Rüstungen) quantitatively and qualitatively, i.e. to discontinue the quantitative stockpiling of all components of the nuclear weapons arsenals and not to station any more new kinds and types of nuclear weapon systems (Rüstungen) and to



--call a moratorium for all tests of nuclear ammunition and for tests of new kinds (Arten) and types (Typen) of new nuclear weapon carrying means.

--our proposal to make Europe free of medium range nuclear weapons and of tactical (taktischen,?) nuclear weapons remains valid as well.

These are not only good intentions. We are ready to translate this program immediately into the language of contractual agreements and then to implement it step by step in all its ramifications. The SU and the US may begin, and we are sure that other nuclear powers will proceed in the same fashion.

As for the Sowjet SS-20 missiles: the SU is willing, after a reduction, to keep as many medium range missiles in Europe as France and Great Britain own together.

Recently we offered another significant step towards reaching an agreement:

--We declared ourselves willing to destroy all the missiles we need to reduce in the European part of our country, as long, naturally, as a mutually acceptable agreement on the total problem of nuclear arms in Europe can be reached. This includes that the US forego the deployment of new missiles and the equivalent reduction of medium range air-controlled (?, luftgesteuerter) means.

This show of good will on our part means that we give up transferring those medium range missiles which we need to reduce in the European region into the Asian region.

This should take care of the West German concern that these missiles could be returned to their former locations at any time.

The SU, then, is a proponent for the reduction of the nuclear weapon arsenals of medium range in Europe to one third and for no new types of these weapons to be stationed here in the future. She does not claim a single missile or airplane more than the NATO. She is ready for significant physical reductions of her weapons.

The question is: What else is necessary for an honest and fair agreement?

Do the US and the other NATO countries want an agreement at all?

In the early 1970ties the SU and West Germany jointly stood at the cradle of détente. The peoples of our countries know the horrors of war and the value of peace. They are definitely against sliding back into the 'Cold War'. They cannot stand by indifferently while attempts are being made in the name of non-European interests to destroy the positive achievements which the joint efforts of the East and West European countries gained for a peaceful future of our continent.

I express the hope that the representatives to the W. German Bundestag - the highest organ of political power in that country - will act in the full awareness of the duty and responsibility that rest upon them. There still is a possibility to keep the world from sliding into a new round of escalation armament."

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